

INSIDE TODAY

WORLD NEWS

KURDISH VOTE



A prisoner displays her ink-stained finger after casting her ballot in special early voting for the Kurd-run region in northern Iraq, at a polling site at a prison in Sulaimaniyah, 160 miles northeast of Baghdad, Thursday, July 23, 2009. Police, soldiers, prison inmates and sick people in hospitals are among those allowed to cast their votes Thursday for the 111-member Kurdish parliament in three provinces run by Kurds.

See International News on Page 7


SPORTS NEWS

GOING GOLD



Michael Phelps of the United States, left, reacts as Ryan Lochte looks on, as they stand on the podium after winning the final of the Men's 4x100M relay, at the FINA Swimming World Championships in Rome, Sunday, July 26, 2009. The United States won the gold medal.

See Sports Today on Page 10



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Princess Margriet opens Kingdom Games on Aruba



ORANJESTAD – Her Royal Highness Princess Margriet and her husband Professor Pieter van Vollenhoven have traveled to Aruba for an official visit to the island nation. On their first day in Aruba, HRH was responsible for opening the bi-annual Kingdom Games in Oranjestad, Aruba's capital.

Accompanied by the Professor and Aruban Prime Minister Nelson Oduber, the Princess opened the games at the Complejo Deportivo Guillermo Prospero Trinidad Stadium (formerly the Queen Wilhelmina Stadium until 1994) in Oranjestad at 19:00

local time. This was then followed by the soccer match between the Netherlands and the Netherlands Antilles.

The Kingdom Games are held every two years; between the Netherlands, the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba. They were first held in 1965 and went until 1983 when they were cancelled due to former competitor Suriname's departure in 1975. They were reinstalled in 1995 by Dutch Olympian Erica Terpstra, and Aruba joined the two nations in the Games. The aims of the Games are to create a sporting atmosphere, and to strengthen cultural ties and respect between the three nations.

This is the third time Aruba has hosted the Games, the previous Games in 2007 were held in The Hague.

Princess Margriet and Professor van Vollenhoven will partake in various other engagements while in Aruba. Later today HRH will open the Arikok National Park's visitors centre, and the new Archeological Museum of Aruba in Oranjestad.

Continued from page 8-9



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At Marriott Resort

Laura & Robert marry as the sun sets



PALM BEACH- On July 18, 2009, Laura DiAngelis & Robert MacHugh tied the knot at sunset. The lovebirds from Reading, Massachusetts met in high school and have been dating for over 10 years. Robert proposed while in Boston at the Boston Public Garden while it was snowing, Laura was very surprised as this was a moment she

had been waiting for. After Laura graduated college she took a Caribbean cruise which stopped on the gorgeous island of Aruba. Laura knew at that moment that this was her dream wedding destination. She followed her heart and when it came time for the wedding plans her dream became a reality. As they planned their wedding with Marriott wedding coordinator Desiree Bikker they knew they were in great hands. Last week at Marriott Resort, Laura & Robert vowed their love during a romantic ceremony which was witnessed by 50 guests who flew in for the union of marriage. Bella Aruba Photography captured the moments as everything unfolded into a splendid wedding in paradise. The Marriott Resort staff did an outstanding job at creating everything that the newlyweds had envisioned. Following the ceremony a cocktail hour took place on the beach at Marriott Resort. The bridal party and newlyweds

were announced and the reception party began with the first dance, the parent dances and a toast by the Best Man. Dinner was served buffet style under the stars and the guests enjoyed a fabulous evening of dancing and rejoicing the

special occasion. "This was definitely the best day of our lives" stated Laura, "We want to thank our family and friends for sharing our special day."

Photos by Angela Munzenhofer

What about an early Belgian dinner?

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October 9 & 10 for the Aruba Music Festival

Paulina Rubio to perform in Aruba



ORANJESTAD – Last week, the Aruba Tourism Authority announced that International music icon Paulina Rubio will perform at the 8th Annual Aruba Music Festival to be held October 9 & 10.

Paulina Rubio is one of the top-selling female Latin pop artists with over 20 million records sold worldwide. Paulina, dubbed “La Chica Dorada” (The Golden Girl),

is preparing to take the globe by storm yet again with the release of her ninth album, *Gran City Pop*, due out on June 23rd. Raised in Mexico, Los Angeles, and Spain, she began her wildly successful career at the young age of 10 with the Mexican girl group “Timbiriche,” and thereafter decided to go her own way. Paulina’s eponymous solo album shifted over 3

million records worldwide and garnered her a Grammy nomination for Best Latin Artist in addition to three Latin Grammy nominations, as well as a Billboard award for Best Latin Album and two Premio Lo Nuestro awards for Best Pop Album and Best Female Pop Star. With this record, Paulina’s remarkable sales yielded: Triple Platinum and Diamond sales in Columbia, Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Venezuela, Spain, and Italy. Her album *Pau-Latina* further cemented her place as she became the highest selling female Latin artist of 2004. That year, Paulina won several Billboard, Premios Juventud and Premio Lo Nuestro awards and was the only Latina nominated at the 47th Grammy Awards. The year after, Paulina became the first female host at the MTV Latin America Video Awards and was also invited to perform at the Nobel Award Ceremony in 2006. Paulina then released the most successful album-to-date of her career, *Ananda*, which entered the Billboard 200 chart at #31. The single “Ni Una Sola Palabra” also found a home on the charts and won a Latin Billboard Award.



The eagerly anticipated *Gran City Pop* already hit #1 as a pre-sale on iTunes Latino and consists of 10 tracks. Her latest single, “Causa y Efecto,” debuted on television at the 2009 Billboard Latin

Music Awards and was a radio hit upon its release, quickly climbing the charts. In parallel, Paulina is launching “ORO,” her first fragrance, in collaboration with Oracle Beauty Brands.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

ELECTION 2009

Aruba’s new political candidates

Finally a breath of fresh air for a prosperous, healthy and peaceful Island. With election only two months away, it’s time to stand together as responsible citizens of this very loving, precious and caring Island and put an end to the current disastrous and destructive brand of old-style politics. All our eligible voters need to go to the polling stations on Election Day, September 25, 2009 and support some of these new candidates with their new principles for social and political reform, and call on Aruba’s new Parliament to act in a more professional and ethical manner on

behalf of its people. One such candidate is **Michelle Winklaar** whose domestic and international professional career in the corporate sector has shown that she possesses *creativity, vision, innovation, ideas, strategies, compassion and diplomacy*. These abilities are the major components for a successful leader and politician. Michelle will tell you; “this is not about me, it’s about all those hard working families of Aruba; all I am doing is contributing to this positive change with a dynamic **team**; working together to understand and respect each others’ contributions.”

Bernard Simon
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July 25, 2009

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John Giel is Manager of the First Quarter at the Radisson



PALMBEACH – Managers at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa were invited to a fun Scavenger's Hunt at the end of a busy Friday culminating with a fun party at Pure Beach, Phoenix Aruba Beach Resort in honor of the Manager of the 1st Quarter Celebration.



Martin Middeldorp, Vicky Perez and John Giel were distinguished by general manager Gary Jutz for their exceptional performance, their "yes I can" attitude and their dedication for excellence. John who is the beach and pool manager, was the winner for the quarter and received an enthusiastic round of applause from his peers.

Pictured here some memorable, much-enjoyed, party moments. The Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa just celebrated its 50th anniversary, with the opening of a historical photo exhibit. The resort is gearing up for a fund raising gala party benefiting the Aruba Scholarship Foundation, at the end of the month.

Fishes & More "The Restaurant"



Located in the Arawak Gardens in Palm Beach across from the Occidental Resort.

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New Yorkers Love Amazonia



PALMBEACH--Barbara & Rick Ripps, from Newark, NY have been coming to Aruba for 17 years, they are faithful Hyatt Regency guests and they are also faithful Amazonia Churrascaria fans, since opening, and they just love the Picanha, a restaurant specialty which always makes all parties tastier.

Last year they celebrated Rick's 50th birthday here and on this current visit they toasted to their son's 21st birthday. Birthday boy Zach, 21, and his sister Karina, 17, have been coming to Aruba for the last 7 years.

Karina gets her favorite, skewered shrimp, especially

prepared in her honor, It simply doesn't get any delivered to the table by the better than this. world best waiter, Walter!



Appetizer

- Fish Soup
- Onion Soup
- Conch Fritters
- Escargot
- Salad

Entrée

- **Fresh Catch of the Day** prepared by our local chef just the way you like it.
- **Jumbo Shrimp** from our local waters, breaded served with potato or rice or with garlic tossed over linguine.
- **Filet Mignon** 8 oz. US Tenderloin
- **Grilled Boneless Chicken Breast**

Dessert

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- Ice Cream
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Marc & Barbara celebrate 40 years of marriage at Aqua Grill



PALM BEACH – New Jersey couple Marc and Barbara Cohen have been coming to Aruba for the past 10 years. Recently, the couple, who met at a teen travel camp when they were just 12- and 13-years old, marked their 40th anniversary on the island. The travel camp alum have continued their love of travel, but say Aruba is their favorite destination where they feel safe and at home with the friendly locals. The Cohen's are pictured here at Aqua Grill in Palm Beach, one of their favorite restaurants, where Barbara raves about the salmon and Marc is a fan of the shrimp and the traditional plantain.



Puppies looking for homes

We are three cuties looking for a home, please rescue us from life in the street, we are ready for love, call Christina if you wish to adopt any of the puppies tel.: 730 4675. One visit to the vet can make us travel ready. Take a souvenir home with you from Aruba, a West Point Retriever - that's what we're called or in Papiamentu Cacho di Caya.



Buccaneer Restaurant

Aruba's Legendary Buccaneer Restaurant, serving the freshest fish and seafood from the sea to your to your plate including steaks, duck, poultry and pasta dishes. Whether you come with the whole family, bring a group of friends, or enjoy for a romantic dinner for two, Buccaneer has the high quality service and fresh, flavorful international dishes that will make your dining experience a memorable. reservations email us at info@buccaneeraruba.com or call 586-6172 Monday - Saturday 5:30-10 pm



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The French Steakhouse delivers dining under the stars

Eagle Beach – The French Steakhouse at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa just added another charming dining option, a tropical outdoor courtyard, featuring delicious cuisine under the stars.

The famed French Steakhouse prides itself on the elegant dining experience it offers patrons in the fully air-conditioned dining room. Yet recently the idea of adding a garden spot to the existing blueprint began to sprout in the creative mind of Executive Chef George Hoek, and he immediately recruited

the landscapers to create the intimate, lovely setting.

The French Steakhouse Ooh-La-La menu is now served indoor and alfresco, featuring creative appetizers, soups, salads, seafood dishes, poultry and the Pièce de Résistance South American & USDA Beef specialties.

Among popular appetizers the chef's Tropical Crab Cakes with pineapple & mango salsa and the Teriyaki Glazed Seared Duck Breast, served with garden greens and balsamic dressing are real crowd pleasers.



True to the restaurant's French roots, the Onion Soup is a classic, while the Honey Glazed Salmon Salad winks at the exotic East with a sweet soy dressing.

The menu features a great variety of seafood dishes from fresh fish to the totally sinful and amazingly-decadent Caribbean Stuffed Shrimp with Crabmeat and Bacon, which became an instant hit. The tequila and sweet chili glaze, lends the Jumbo shrimp a pure taste of heaven!

The French Steakhouse is naturally famous for the South American Churrasco steak, a signature preparation, which now shares the stage with juicy USDA beef specialties such as NY Sirloin and Filet Mignon. Light-eaters will find the Jerk Chicken Skewers and the Lemon Herb Broilers very satisfying.

Open seven days a week from 5:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. the French Steakhouse is blessed with the nicest staff and a delightfully renovated dining

room with sparkling China, crisp linen, an interesting bread basket, colossal desserts and live jazz on piano with Eddy Samson who is Aruba's best entertainer, and a walking & breathing music encyclopedia, just whistle the tune, and Eddy will produce a symphonic version of your favorite song. Hungry patrons will appreciate the Ambassador's 5-course menu featuring the run of the menu highlights for just \$34.95 per person. www.manchebo.com/steakhouse



Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano introduces Menu Turistico



Eagle Beach -- Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano located at the heart of the low-rise hotels at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa, delivers authentic Mediterranean flavors, at a reasonable price. The restaurant has just introduced Menu Turistico a three-course dinner featuring appetizers, main courses and desserts for just \$19.95, per person, plus 15% service charge.

Patrons may choose between home made soup and Caesar salad, Fettuccini Alfredo, Lasagna Casarecia, Spaghetti alla Bolognese or any favorite pizza with Tiramisu, Cheese Cake or Ice Cream for the sweet finale.

Posing with Angelo the Italian maitre D' at Giorgio's, Mr and Mrs. Klaus, from Pennsylvania, 2nd time repeaters in Aruba at the Manchebo, the trip was a birthday present from him to her and since they are celebrating their 40th anniversary in November, they are already thinking about coming back, they enjoyed Menu Turistico and recommend it wholeheartedly! □

Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar reinvents Beach Cuisine



Eagle Beach – Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa deserves recognition as the home of Beach Cuisine.

Executive Chef George Hoek and his culinary team serve a Sun Splashed menu on the ocean front terrace,

raising the bar to a must-visit, must-try status.

The contemporary menu, lists many favorite dishes from around the world, borrowing inspiration from US, Mexican, Thai, Jamaican, Cuban, Greek and Mediterranean kitchens, all served with a tropical, Caribbean flair.

From Sun-Sational Salads, to Cuban pressed jawbreakers and wraps, mid-day platters also include oversize Beef Burgers, Philly Cheese Steak Sandwiches and Hot Dogs.

The Pega Pega tropical &

frozen cocktail list, with fresh fruit or ice cream smoothies, daiquiris, coladas and margaritas, leaves nothing out, including Yellow Birds, Sex on the Beach and Mudslides, making a lunch-time brain-freeze, extremely easy to get!

The Pega Pega, one of Aruba's oldest beach bars is open on fabulous Eagle Beach, with unrivaled views, caring, gracious service, and relaxed atmosphere, from 12 noon to 5 p.m. The bar opens at 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. □





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Games are to create a sporting atmosphere, and to strengthen cultural ties and respect between the three nations.

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Princess Margriet and Professor van Vollenhoven will partake in various other engagements while in Aruba. Later today HRH will open the Arikok National Park's visitors centre, and the new Archeological Museum of Aruba in Oranjestad. Monday will see HRH and the Professor attend the closing of the bi-



annual cultural exchange event "Crown Jewels" between the three nations. Tuesday will see the royal pair separate, with Princess Margriet visiting the Aruban Red Cross and the Professor attending meeting

regarding the co-operation of insitutions between the Dutch Kingdom nations. On the pair's final days in Aruba, the Professor will visit Saba and St Eustatius.

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Café de Pijp opens its doors at South Beach Center – Palm Beach!

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PALM BEACH - Last week, Café de Pijp officially inaugurated its authentic "OUD HOLLANDS CAFÉ" conveniently located at the South Beach Center in Palm Beach opposite Segafredo. Café de Pijp has been operating since June 19th and has now made the opening official with various members of the press and guests. All guests received a warm welcome from the management in a nice and cozy ambiance with entertainment of the band The Equator.

Café de Pijp has been designed and founded by Mr. Alex de Haan. He has a

lot of experience with this kind of specific Oud Hollands Café in the Netherlands. The interior of Café de Pijp, which is almost 60 m2, has been constructed with dark wood materials which give the ambiance a very cozy and warm feeling.

They play all kinds of music, from Dutch, to English to Latin American. Every day you can enjoy the peanut consumption with your favorite drink. This peanut concept "Pelpinda's" is a typical Dutch custom, where the guests of the Dutch bar peel their peanuts and throw the shells on the floor and enjoy doing it! When entering the Dutch bar and encountering all the peanut shells on the floor, don't be surprised, as this is one of the most common custom for a typical Old Dutch Bar in the Netherlands.

Café de Pijp will have several activities programmed for its guests in the near future. These activities include Dart competitions among other cafes and guests, Karaoke nights, Jazz nights and Salsa nights. **Café de Pijp serves delicious snacks for its guests and invites their customers to enjoy these snacks free of charge on Friday afternoons.** Café de Pijp will also have their "Pijpjesavond" where one can buy beer at a very inexpensive price. Café de Pijp will also offer



a special drink of the week for the non beer drinkers. **Heineken draught beer will have a price of only AWG 5,- every day.**

For one month Café de Pijp will have a special Grand Opening offer in newspapers. Bring the newspaper ad and get a FREE Heineken draught beer with this ad per person. Do not miss this special offer, just bring it to Café de Pijp and enjoy your FREE beer in a typical "OUD HOLLANDS CAFÉ" Café

de Pijp offers its customers very attractive consumption prices compared to other bars in the vicinity, a great ambiance and LIVE entertainment by Alex as well!

We invite you to visit us at the South Beach Center and experience the fun yourself! For more information please call us at 745-4706.

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Texas de Brazil offers light and healthy eating



PALM BEACH – The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan. **Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry.** The meats are prepared in the

healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge. The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers up a garden full of healthy eats on a **lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar**, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables

may be standard for most salad bars, but **Texas de Brazil's** version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, home-made soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal. For more information or to make reservations please call 586-4686 .

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Aiken teen saves his friend's life

The irony is that Bailey Barnes readily admits he isn't much of a swimmer. His lifelong friend, Coleman Maness, has been working as a lifeguard this summer.

But during a Caribbean vacation with their families last week, it was Coleman, 16, who was knocked unconscious during a jet ski accident. Bailey, 18, and a 2009 South Aiken High School graduate, used CPR to resuscitate his friend. He needed another 15 frantic minutes before he could catch the attention of a man in a dingy to bring them back to shore.

Incredibly, Maness - a Wando High School junior from Mt. Pleasant - was face down in the water for as long as 10 minutes before Bailey found him. Coleman spent three days in a hospital and is now back home.

"He's doing fine, and that's great," said Bailey. "I was trying to shrug it off right afterwards, but that night I was really a mess."

The parents, Allison and Joe Barnes and Kim and David Maness, go way back. Way, way back. Allison and David grew up other together in Lancaster and were best buds from the age of 6.

When Joe Barnes moved to the community as a young teenager, he immediately became close friends with David Maness - and fell madly in love with Allison.

Kim met David Maness during college and was quickly accepted by Allison and Joe.



The friendship between the couples has endured ever since. They started going on vacations together every summer, and as time passed, their kids joined them, too. The Barneses have a daughter, Lindsey, a college junior, while the Manesses have a daughter, Megan, who's the same age.

Although he's two years older than Coleman, Bailey has never used that chronology thing to his own advantage. They're just good pals, and each happily hangs out with the other's friends when they visit each other.

"Coleman is fairly mature for his age, and I'm fairly immature for my age," Bailey said with a laugh.

The families usually take their vacations in Aruba. This year Bailey suggested St. Martin, about 200 miles from Puerto Rico. The island is divided into two nations, one half of it French and the other is part of the Netherlands Antilles.

They were staying on the

Dutch side of the island and were having another enjoyable, conventional vacation, said Allison. The families had heard about some nice beaches on the French side and on Wednesday, July 15, they rented a van to take a look.

After their arrival, the dads decided to take a walk on the beach. Mothers and daughters settled down for some sun and a chat. Bailey and Coleman got approval to rent some jet skis, which they had done on previous trips.

The water was choppy and the teens didn't stay close together so as to ensure they didn't collide with each other. At one point, Coleman lost the key to his jet ski. Bailey came in to tell a jet ski operator, who brought Coleman another key.

Allison and Kim were trying to keep an eye on the boys, but they were rather far off shore. Bailey had gone back in the water, but couldn't find his friend. He came back to the beach, assuming Coleman was already there as their

rental time was nearly up.

"I went back out to look for him," Bailey said. "I finally saw his jet ski and he wasn't on it. Then I saw Coleman about 20 feet away, face down in the water."

Coleman had a life vest on, but it's not the type that sits one straight up. Physicians later diagnosed a concussion, suggesting he might have hit his head on the jet ski.

"I didn't know CPR," Bailey said. "I knew you just breathe into the mouth. I figured it couldn't be that hard."

To Bailey's overwhelming relief, Coleman did begin to breathe with a raspy wheeze. In the movies, the person expels water and seems to recover instantly. That didn't happen last week. Coleman was still unconscious and they were anywhere from a quarter-mile to a half-mile off shore.

Bailey readily admits he began

to get seriously alarmed. Both jet skis had drifted away and he was getting fatigued. He screamed to try to get the attention of passing jet skiers, but they didn't hear him or see the boys. After about 15 minutes, the guy in the dingy approached them and brought the teenagers to shore.

Allison and Kim saw the boys approach the shore and, of course, panicked when they discovered Coleman was lying in the bottom of the boat.

"Bailey was crying and I realized this was really bad," said Kim. "I didn't want to go over there and look, and my knees were about ready to give out. The only saving grace was that the man in the boat said he was breathing, and I ran out there."

"The guys from the jet ski place pulled Coleman off and put him a chair," said Allison. "I said let's turn him over and blood started coming out of his mouth and nose."

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In Hawaii, health insurance paid by employers

By MARK NIESSE,
Associated Press Writer Mark
HONOLULU—Hawaii's decades-old law aimed at increasing health coverage by requiring companies to provide insurance to their workers has brought something less than universal health care to the 50th state.

The experience in President Barack Obama's home state poses some cautionary realities as Congress considers a similar federal requirement that businesses provide health insurance to their employees in any sweeping overhaul of the nation's health care system.

Since its passage 35 years ago, the percent of uninsured in Hawaii has fallen to lower levels than nearly every other state, but the system left coverage gaps. And cost-conscious business owners have found an easy way to avoid the law by hiring more part-time workers who aren't required to be covered.

"If it weren't for that law, medical benefits are one area we would look to cut because of this recession," said Debi Halcro, president of Valenti Print Group, which publishes everything from brochures to coffee table books. "It hurts the business. You can't pass it on to customers in this economy."

Like many Hawaii bosses, Halcro is careful to limit the hours of her three part-time employees so she doesn't have to pay for their health insurance. In all, the company has 43 workers.

Similar loopholes could be exploited under vague language in legislation pending before Congress. The House bill doesn't clarify who is a full-time employee, and the Senate measure only fully covers employees working at least 35 hours a week.

"An employer mandate is not an effective means for achieving universal coverage," according

to an analysis published by the Federal Reserve Bank last month. "Although overall insurance coverage rates are unusually high in Hawaii, a substantial number of people remain uninsured, suggesting a need for alternative approaches if universal coverage is the ultimate goal."

Since Democrat-controlled Hawaii passed its employer health insurance mandate, it has consistently had one of the lowest rates of uninsured in the nation, at about 8 percent in 2007, according to the Henry J. Kaiser Foundation. A federal survey showed Massachusetts had even fewer uninsured, at about 3 percent. The national average is 15 percent.

Massachusetts approved a broad health care reform measure in 2006 that requires near-universal coverage and penalizes individuals who refuse to get coverage. Massachusetts is also different from Hawaii in that

it has had some of the highest health costs in the country, while Hawaii has the lowest.

Because Hawaii's law only covers those who work more than 20 hours per week, some companies have changed their hiring practices so they can save money.

"Naturally, everybody tries to keep their workers as part-time," said Jack Schneider, president of J.S. Services, which handles human resources and mandated benefits for about 200 Hawaii companies. "If you create a law, people find ways to get around it."

Hawaii has the highest percentage of private-sector part-time employees without employer-sponsored insurance in the country, according to a University of Hawaii study of the law's impacts.

But the study also shows that Hawaii ranks in the middle

nationally in the percentage of employees working 19 hours or fewer per week, which negates the idea that businesses have significantly switched to part-time workers to dodge health insurance costs, said economics professor Gerard Russo, the report's researcher and co-author.

Low-hour employees make up only about 3 percent to 6 percent of the overall Hawaii work force, according to the Federal Reserve Bank report.

About 17 percent of Hawaii residents lacked insurance that would cover both doctor visits and hospital bills in when the law was passed in 1974, and that figure dropped to around 5 percent in the early 1980s, according to the Hawaii Uninsured Project.

Russo said the climb to 8 percent uninsured by 2007 was caused by a combination of factors: the number of uninsured grew as the unemployment rate rose, health care costs increased across the country and some businesses hired more part-time workers to avoid the law's reach.

Supporters of the employer-paid health insurance program credit it for making Hawaii the "Health State."

Hawaii leads the nation with the lowest death rate, longest life expectancy, lowest frequency of emergency room visits and second-fewest deaths due to heart disease, according to Kaiser Foundation data.

While not immune to skyrocketing health costs, Hawaii residents have the most affordable health insurance in the nation, with average family coverage costing \$9,426 annually for employer-based health insurance in 2006. Nationwide, the average was \$11,381.

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Rally may cool on earnings reality check

By Angela Moon

NEW YORK (Reuters) – Wall Street may take a breather this week after an earnings-driven rally lifted the major U.S. stock indexes to their highest levels in months.

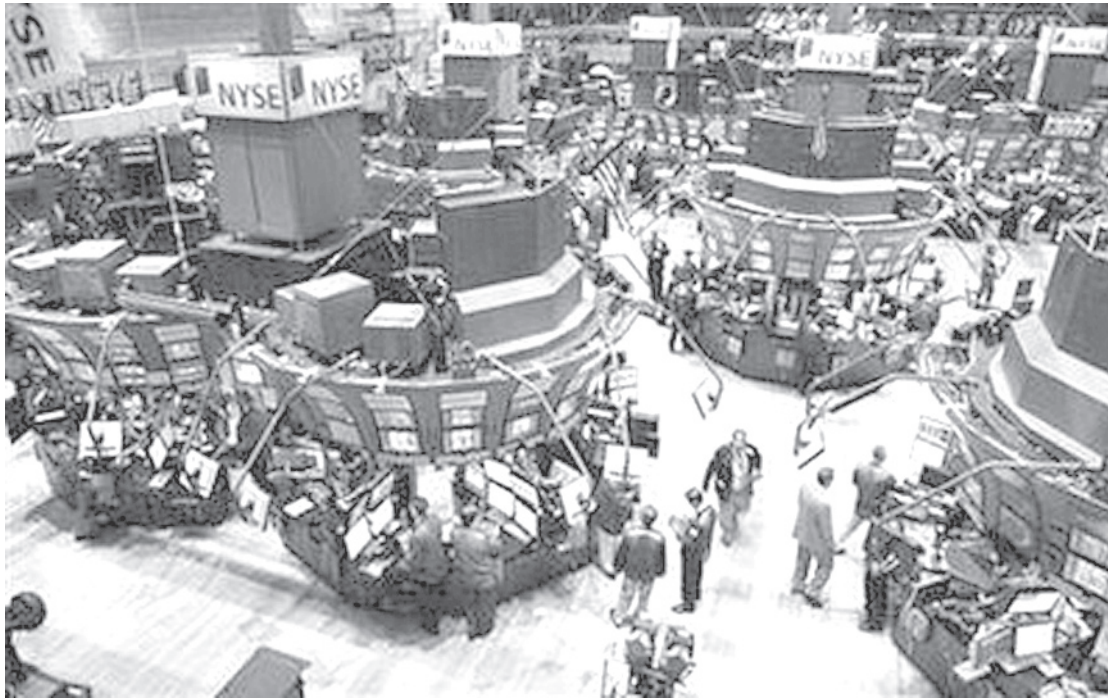
The blue-chip Dow Jones industrial average (.DJI) climbed back above the 9,000 mark last week for the first time since January. And the Standard and Poor's 500 Index (.SPX) ended Friday at 979.26 -- up 44.7 percent from the 12-year closing low hit on March 9 -- after a number of prominent companies' earnings surpassed Wall Street's expectations.

This week's "market enjoyed the better-than-expected earnings, or I should say, less bad-than-expected earnings, but we can play the game for only so long," said Scott Marcouiller, senior

equity market strategist at Wells Fargo Advisors in St. Louis.

"Stay cautious. We can't put a cap on it (the rally) yet, but there will be a correction."

The exuberance was interrupted Friday as disappointing quarterly revenues from Microsoft Corp (MSFT.O) and Amazon.com



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, July 24, 2009.
REUTERS/Brendan McDermid

(AMZN.O) hit their stocks and weighed on the Nasdaq, which fell on Friday and halted a 12-day run of gains. In contrast, both the Dow average and the S&P 500 ended Friday at eight-month closing highs.

For the week, the Dow was up 4 percent, the S&P 500 was up 4.1

percent and the Nasdaq was up 4.2 percent.

The earnings blitz will continue this week. About a third of the S&P 500 companies are expected to report results, including such high-profile names as Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM.N) and Walt Disney Co (DIS.N) Both are also Dow components.

BERNANKE ON THE TUBE

Wall Street and Main Street are likely to tune in when Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke appears on PBS this week in a town hall-style forum called "Bernanke on the Record," hosted by Jim Lehrer.

After being grilled repeatedly on Capitol Hill about the troubles continuing to roil the nation's economy, Bernanke will talk about the Fed's response to last year's economic crisis and its role in economic recovery.

U.S. gasoline prices fall to \$2.48/gallon

NEW YORK (Reuters) – The average price of a gallon of gasoline in the United States fell again over the last two weeks, but prices seem to be bottoming out, an industry analyst said.

The national average for self-serve regular unleaded gas was nearly \$2.486 a gallon on July 24, down about 7.14 cents per gallon since July 10, according to the nationwide Lundberg survey of about 7,000 gas stations.

Average prices have tumbled nearly 18 cents per gallon in July, but the trend of falling prices could soon come to an end, said survey editor Trilby Lundberg.

"Not only has the rate of decline slowed, but it can be expected to disappear entirely as these prices may have hit a bottom for now," Lundberg said.

Increases in crude oil prices could signal an upswing in average retail prices, Lundberg said. Crude oil prices settled up 89 cents at \$68.05 per barrel on Friday, up from \$59.89 per barrel two weeks earlier.

Average prices for self-serve regular unleaded gas are well below the all time high of \$4.11 registered on July 11, 2008, as high unemployment has helped to reduce demand. Gas on average is \$1.51 below what it sold for on July 25, 2008.

At \$3.03 a gallon, Honolulu, Hawaii, had the highest average price for self-serve regular unleaded gas, while the lowest price was \$2.22 in Jackson, Mississippi, in the latest period, the survey found.

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The escalation of US war plans in Latin America PT 1

By Rick Rozoff

Since the overthrow of Honduran President Manuel Zelaya on June 28, led by military commanders trained at the School of the Americas, alarms have been sounded in Latin America and throughout the world that the coup, far from being an aberration or anachronism, may mark a precedent for more in the near future.”

On June 29 US President Barack Obama hosted his Colombian counterpart Alvaro Uribe at the White House and weeks later it was announced that the Pentagon plans to deploy troops to five air and naval bases in Colombia, the largest recipient of American military assistance in Latin America and the third largest in the world, having received over \$5 billion from the Pentagon since the launching of Plan Colombia nine years ago.

Six months before the Obama-Uribe meeting outgoing US President George W. Bush bestowed the US’s highest civilian honor, the Medal of Freedom, on Uribe as well as on former British Prime Minister Tony Blair and former Australian Prime Minister John Howard.

A press account of the time expressed both shock and indignation at the White House’s honoring of Uribe in writing that “Despite extra-judicial killings, paramilitaries and murdered unionists, Colombia’s President Uribe has won the US’s highest honor for human rights.” [1]

The same source substantiated its concern by adding:

“Colombia is the most dangerous country on earth for trade unionists. In 2006, half of all union member killings around the world took place there. Since Uribe came into power in 2002, nearly 500 have been murdered. In reply to concern about the assassinations, Uribe dismissed the victims as ‘a bunch of criminals dressed up as unionists.’

“More than 1,000 cases of illegal killings by the military are being investigated. There are dozens of cases of soldiers taking innocent men, murdering them and dressing them up as enemy combatants. Hundreds of members of the security forces are thought to have taken part in such activities.” [2]

Colombia: Forty Year War

For over forty years Colombia, the last of Washington’s remaining “death squad democracy” clients in the Western Hemisphere, has waged a relentless counterinsurgency war against the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and an equally ruthless campaign with its US-trained and -equipped military and allied paramilitary formations against trade union, peasant, indigenous and other organizations. An estimated 40,000 have been killed and 2 million displaced as a result of the fighting.

In 1985 the FARC laid down its arms and entered into a peace process with the government of Belisario Betancur.

It helped found the Patriotic Union to participate in electoral and other peaceful activities but within several years as many as 5,000 Patriotic Union elected officials, candidates, trade unionists, community organizers and other activists were murdered by Colombian security forces and government-linked right-wing death squads, especially the notorious United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC) and its late leader Carlos Castano. Eight congressmen, 70 councilmen, dozens of deputies and mayors and hundreds of trade unionists and peasant leaders were slain and in 1989-1990 two of its presidential candidates were murdered within seven months.

Faced with complete extermination, the FARC rearmed and sought refuge in the southeast of the

country.

In 1998 then Colombian President Andres Pastrana permitted FARC a 16,000 square mile safe haven in the Caqueta Department.

The US then set its sights on an intensive counterinsurgency campaign to destroy the FARC infrastructure in the region and to uproot and destroy the organization altogether.

In January of 2000 STRATFOR, not a source known for opposing war, warned:

“The U.S. State Department recently announced a two-year, \$1.3 billion emergency U.S. aid package for counter-narcotics operations in Colombia. The plan also is geared toward helping President Andres Pastrana negotiate peace with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). But the plan will have the opposite effect. It will end the peace negotiations between the rebels and the government and re-ignite the war. Ultimately, the plan does little more than pave the way for greater U.S. involvement. [3]

It went on to say that “The bulk of the money pledged for counter-narcotics efforts will go directly to the military to fight the rebels.... This will tip the balance of power away from the government in Bogota and toward the military, which has always opposed the peace negotiations. Ultimately, the door will open wider for greater U.S. involvement.” [4]

Plan Colombia: Clinton’s Parthian Shot

Colombia was already the largest recipient of US military aid in the Western Hemisphere by 2000, but the Clinton administration increased the Pentagon’s role in the nation with what became Plan Colombia.

After entering office in January of 1993 bombing Iraq and later killing hundreds if not thousands of Somalis the same year, Clinton and his foreign policy team never abandoned the use of military aggression.

In 1995 it provided military planners and advisers for Croatia’s brutal and ethnocidal Operation Storm and led NATO’s bombing of Bosnian Serb targets, including retreating troops and refugee columns following them, leaving what is now the Bosnian Serb Republic strewn with depleted uranium and an epidemic of cancer cases.

Three years later it launched cruise missile attacks on Afghanistan and Sudan and on December 16, 1998 began Operation Desert Fox, a deadly four-day assault on Iraq with 250 airstrikes and over 400 Tomahawk cruise missiles - the evening before scheduled impeachment proceedings against Clinton in the US Congress.

The following year the administration’s use of military aggression reached its apex with the 78-day US-led NATO assault against Yugoslavia, the first military attack against a European nation since Hitler’s and Mussolini’s from 1939 onward.

The administration’s Parthian shot was Plan Colombia in 2000.

Colombia’s President Pastrana conceived of a project the preceding year, 1999, that the White House redesigned for its own purposes.

As former US ambassador to El Salvador Robert White, sacked by the Reagan administration in 1981 in preparation for unleashing its death squad and Contra wars in Central America, wrote after the US Congress passed Plan Colombia in June of 2000:

“If you read the original Plan Colombia, not the one that was written in Washington but the original Plan Colombia, there’s no mention of military drives against the FARC rebels. Quite the contrary. (President Pastrana) says the FARC is part of the



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history of Colombia and a historical phenomenon, he says, and they must be treated as Colombians.” [5]

An alternative American presswire reported that, “In early 1999, the Pastrana administration began peace talks with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the largest rebel group.

“The president also made his first trip to Washington in search of aid against the drug trade. But when he got there, ‘they changed the script on him,’ according to Marco Romero of the Peace Colombia Initiative, a coalition created in September by 60 local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) seeking an alternative to the Plan Colombia.

“Pastrana’s talks with U.S. congressional leaders and the head of the White House office on National Drug Control Policy, Barry McCaffrey, gave rise to the Plan Colombia, said Romero.” [6]

McCaffrey is a retired Army General who earned his stripes in the Dominican Republic in 1965, Vietnam from 1966-69 and in Operation Desert Storm in 1991. He was also head of the Pentagon’s Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) from 1994-96 and Deputy US Representative to NATO.

“In support of their request for aid to Colombia, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and drug czar McCaffrey told the U.S. Congress that the funds were to be used for ‘restoring order in southeastern Colombia.”” [7]

With the passing of Plan Colombia the US increased military aid to the nation by over twenty times in just two years, 1998-2000, from \$50 million in 1998 to over \$1 billion in 2000, placing Colombia only behind Israel and Egypt in that category. In the ten years since 1998 US military aid was increased a hundredfold.

Earlier in the year a mainstream American news source said that “The Clinton administration’s proposed \$1.6 billion in emergency aid to Colombia is at least as much a counterinsurgency package as it is an anti-drug measure” and mentioned that “a member of Congress objected to White House efforts to sidestep the normal appropriations process.” [8]

Weeks before the House vote one of the worse recent massacres of Colombian civilians occurred in El Salado, perpetrated by paramilitaries with army complicity.

Plan Colombia was drenched in blood even before it was formalized. In January of 2000 US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright visited Colombia to promote the initiative and in honor of her arrival the Colombian military killed 50 of its citizens in an attack outside of the capital of Bogota.

The US Congress and Senate added over a billion dollars, sixty attacks helicopters and more special forces counterinsurgency advisers to the war in June. Approximately 70% of the 2000 Plan Colombia funds were allotted for the financing, training and supplying of army anti-narcotics battalions operating in southeastern Colombia, the former FARC safe haven.

Nominal progressives, the late Paul Wellstone in the Senate and Illinois Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky in the House, attached a human rights proviso that no serious person expected to be honored and only two months after the Congress’s authorization of Plan Colombia Clinton used his presidential waiver to override the human rights conditions on the grounds of “national security.”



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Ex-'Idol' contestant struck, killed by car in NJ

SEASIDE HEIGHTS, N.J. – Authorities say a 25-year-old former two-time “American Idol” contestant has been struck and killed by a car in a New Jersey shore town.

The Asbury Park Press reports that Alexis Cohen, of Allentown, Pa., was killed early Saturday in Seaside Heights.

Deputy Chief Michael Mohel of the Ocean County Prosecutors Office says an autopsy indicated she suffered chest, head and abdominal injuries. Mohel says investigators are seeking more information about the collision.

Cohen auditioned in Philadelphia for the popular Fox singing competition in August 2007, and the episode was aired in January 2008. She tried out again during the show's

eighth season.

A video of her angry rant after being rejected by judges went viral on the Internet.



File - In this undated image released by FOX, ‘American Idol’ contestant Alexis Cohen, 23, of Allentown, Pa., performs in front of the judges during tryouts for the program's seventh season in Philadelphia. Authorities say the 25-year-old former contestant on ‘American Idol’ has been struck and killed by a car in a Jersey shore town. The Asbury Park Press reports that Alexis Cohen, of Allentown, Pa., was killed early Saturday July 25, 2009 in Seaside Heights New Jersey. (AP Photo/FOX, Michael Becker, File)

Texas man wins Ernest Hemingway look-alike contest



David Douglas (C) celebrates at Sloppy Joe's Bar after winning the 2009 “Papa” Hemingway Look-Alike contest in Key West, Florida, July 25, 2009. Douglas, a 55-year-old Cypress, Texas, mechanical contractor, won the competition after eight tries. He is surrounded by previous Hemingway look-alike winners. The event was a highlight of the six-day Hemingway Days festival that ends Sunday, honoring author Ernest Hemingway who lived in Key West in the 1930s. Picture taken July 25. REUTERS/Andy Newman/Florida Keys News Bureau/Hand out

KEY WEST, Fla. – A 55-year-old Texan wearing the requisite white beard and sporting a sweater won an Ernest Hemingway look-alike contest — one of the highlights of a six-day annual festival honoring the late Nobel prize-winning author.

Dressed in a wool fisherman's turtleneck sweater despite 90-degree temperatures, David Douglas of Cypress bested 139 other contenders at the “Papa”

Hemingway Look-Alike Contest, staged Saturday night at Sloppy Joe's Bar, the author's favorite watering hole.

Douglas' attire emulated Hemingway's appearance in a famous 1957 photograph by Yousuf Karsh.

“It's very possible the sweater did it,” said a perspiring Douglas of his victory. “It's about 120 (degrees) inside the sweater, but it's worth it.”

Douglas won the competition

on his eighth attempt after originally entering on a dare.

The mechanical contractor said he shares Hemingway's fondness for fishing and cocktails, but has no literary aspirations.

“I haven't written any books, but I'm good writing checks and text messaging,” Douglas said. Other Hemingway Days events included literary and theatrical presentations, a marlin tournament and a short story competition coordinated by author and Hemingway granddaughter Lorian Hemingway. The festival ends Sunday. July 21 was the 110th anniversary of Hemingway's birth.

Judged by a panel of former look-alike winners, 30 prospective “Papas” made Saturday night's contest finals to parade across the stage at Sloppy Joe's. Finalists included Denis Golden of Rockport, Mass., who sang a parody of “Hello, Dolly” onstage with lyrics pleading for victory. While living in Key West during the 1930s, Hemingway wrote some of his most famous works, including “For Whom the Bell Tolls,” “To Have and Have Not” and “Death in the Afternoon.”

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of exquisite fish, yellow rice and rich vegetables," Chef Marc says. With a smile he adds "And that just for US\$ 20!"

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Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, stands next to Lt. Gov. Parnell, center, as she talks to one of her staff during the governor's picnic in Anchorage, Alaska Saturday, July 25, 2009. Several thousand people attended the picnic. Palin will attend one more picnic in Fairbanks on Sunday where she will resign as Alaska's governor and Lt. Gov. Sean Panell will become governor.

Associated Press

Palin steps down as Alaska governor

MATTHEW DALY

Associated Press Writer

FAIRBANKS, Alaska (AP) — Sarah Palin stepped down Sunday as Alaska governor to write a book and build a right-of-center coalition, but she left her long-term political plans unclear and refused to address speculation she would seek a 2012 presidential bid.

In a fiery campaign-style speech, Palin said she was stepping down to take her political battles to a larger if unspecified stage.

"With this decision, now, I will be able to fight even harder for you, for what is right, and for truth. And I have never felt that you need a title to do that," Palin said to raucous applause from about 5,000 people gathered at Pioneer Park in downtown Fairbanks.

Her first order of business as a private citizen is to speak Aug. 8 at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in California. She also wants to campaign for political candidates from coast to coast, and continue to speak her mind on the social networking site Twitter, one of her favorite venues to reach out to supporters.

Free speech was a theme of her farewell speech at a crowded picnic in Fairbanks,

as the outgoing governor scolded "some seemingly hell bent on tearing down our nation" and warned Americans to "be wary of accepting government largess. It doesn't come free."

She also took aim at the media, saying her replacement, Lt. Gov. Sean Parnell, "has a very nice family too, so leave his kids alone!" And she told the media: "How about, in honor of the American soldier, you quit makin' things up?"

She didn't elaborate, but Palin said when she announced her resignation July 3 that she was tired of the media focus on her family and felt she had been unfairly treated by reporters and bloggers.

Friend and foe alike have speculated that Palin may host a radio or TV show, launch a lucrative speaking career or seek higher office in Washington.

Palin hasn't ruled out any of those options, and her political action committee, SarahPAC, has raised more than \$1 million, said Meghan Stapleton, a spokeswoman for the committee and the Palin family.

Stapleton said Palin is still deciding what her future will be.

Continued on page 2

Suspect in Kan. abortion killing faces hearing

By ROXANA HEGEMAN

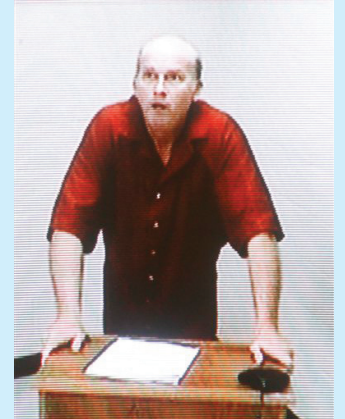
Associated Press Writer

WICHITA, Kan. — The man accused of killing one of the nation's few late-term abortion providers will get his first look this week at the evidence against him, even as he has called the shooting of Dr. George Tiller justified.

Scott Roeder, 51, is charged with one count of first-degree murder in Tiller's death and two counts of aggravated assault for allegedly threatening two ushers who tried to stop him during the May 31 melee in the foyer of the doctor's church.

Unless the defense waives the preliminary hearing set for Tuesday, prosecutors must convince a judge that they have enough evidence to merit a trial. Roeder would then enter a plea.

Continued on page 5



This undated booking photo originally released Tuesday, June 2, 2009 by the Sedgwick County Jail shows Scott Roeder, who is suspected in the shooting death of abortion provider George Tiller. The man accused of killing one of the nation's few late-term abortion providers will get his first look this week at the evidence against him, even as he claims the shooting of Dr. George Tiller was justified and asserts he "would be pleased" if others are inspired to take similar action.

Sarkozy hospitalized after collapsing during jog

DEBORAH SEWARD

Associated Press Writer

PARIS (AP) — French President Nicolas Sarkozy collapsed suddenly while jogging Sunday on the lush grounds of the Chateau of Versailles, then was rushed by helicopter to a military hospital where he will remain overnight, his office said.

Military doctors quickly performed a battery of tests on the 54-year-old president who is known for his hyperactivity. The Elysee Palace said Sarkozy's test results were normal but that doctors would keep him under cardiological observation until Monday.

His office denied that Sarkozy had lost consciousness in the episode. The Elysee Palace statement followed reports from members of Sarkozy's government and his chief of staff who had indicated that Sarkozy had lost consciousness.

"Today, late in the morning, while he was jogging in the park at the Chateau of Versailles, the president of the republic felt unwell. This episode, which came after 45 minutes of intense physical activity, was not accompanied by a loss of consciousness," the palace statement said.

Continued on page 8

Palin

Continued from front page

"I cannot express enough there is no plan after July 26. There is absolutely no plan," she told The Associated Press.

Palin's surprise announcement she was stepping down 17 months before the end of her first term pushed her favorability rating down to 40 percent, according to a Washington Post-ABC poll. Fifty-three percent of those polled gave her an unfavorable rating. Last summer, almost six in 10 Americans viewed her favorably. The latest poll was taken from July 15-18. Nearly 20 ethics complaints had been filed against Palin, and the outgoing governor cited the resulting investigation's financial toll — both on her and the state — for stepping down. An independent investigator looking into the complaints found evidence she may have violated ethics laws by trading on her position as

she sought money for lawyer fees, according to a report obtained recently by The Associated Press.

Parnell, 46, of Anchorage, was sworn in Sunday as the state's new governor and has promised to push many of Palin's initiatives, including controversial terms to build a natural gas pipeline.

Palin received a warm welcome, both during her speech and as she served food at Pioneer Park in downtown Fairbanks, where thousands gathered on a hot day.

Among those present was Donna Michaels, 57, of Fairbanks, who wore a red T-shirt that said: "Palintologist."

The T-shirt defined a Palintologist as "someone who studies Palin and shares her conservative values, Maverick attitude and American style."

Michaels also held a poster board sign showing the front page of the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner when Palin announced she would resign. Michaels altered the banner headline "Palin steps down,"



replacing the last word with "up."

"She's really not stepping down. She's stepping up to do something bigger and better," said Michaels, who attended the picnic with her daughter and two granddaughters, one of whom wore Sarah Palin-style eyeglasses.

Larry Landry, 51, of Fairbanks

held up a red, white and blue sign that read, "Quitting: the new American value." The other side read: "Thanks for the laughs."

Landry, a registered independent, said he respected Palin when she ran for governor in 2006, but she changed during last year's presidential campaign.

"She turned into a vicious vixen," he said. "She descended into ugly, divisive politics."

Alaska's first female governor arrived at the state Capitol in December 2006 on an ethics reform platform after defeating two former governors in the primary and general elections. Her prior political experience consisted of terms as Wasilla's mayor and councilwoman and a stint as head of the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission.

Unknown on the national stage until Republican John McCain tapped her as his running mate, Palin infused excitement into the Republican's presidential bid. But she also became the butt of talk-show jokes and Democratic criticism, especially after the Republican Party spent \$150,000 or more on a designer wardrobe for Palin. Stapleton said the answer to her future will emerge in the coming weeks.

On Monday, "we'll sit down and say, 'OK, here are your options. How do you now want to effect that positive change for Alaska from outside the role as governor?'" Stapleton said.

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New direction in terror fight may stem from case

By ADAM GOLDMAN and
DEVLIN BARRETT

Associated Press Writers

NEW YORK — When the American-born al-Qaida recruit Bryant Neal Vinas was captured in Pakistan late last year, he wasn't whisked off to a military prison or a secret CIA facility in another country to be interrogated.

Instead, the itinerant terrorist landed in the hands of the FBI and was flown back to New York to face justice.

Months before President Barack Obama took office with a pledge to change U.S. counterterrorism policies, the Bush administration gave Vinas all the rights of American criminal suspects. And he talked.

While an American citizen captured in Pakistan certainly presents a unique case, the circumstances of Vinas' treatment may point to a new emphasis in the fight against terror, one that relies more on FBI crimefighters and the civilian justice system than on CIA interrogators and military detention.

Vinas provided "an intelligence gold mine" to U.S. officials, including possible information about a suspected

militant who was killed in a Predator drone strike last November, says a senior law enforcement official, one of several authorities who spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to discuss the case publicly.

Another law enforcement official said that under questioning, the 26-year-old Vinas gradually provided a "treasure trove" of information, allowing U.S. counterterrorism officials to peer deep inside the inner workings of al-Qaida.

The FBI first learned about Vinas after Pakistani police arrested him in November 2008 in Peshawar, a city teeming with Taliban militants and al-Qaida operatives along Pakistan's northwest border with Afghanistan.

Vinas, born in Queens and raised as a Roman Catholic on Long Island, was turned over to the FBI. Authorities have long been concerned about al-Qaida's interest in recruiting outsiders who can blend in easily. It was not the first time an American had gone to Pakistan for Jihad. Others had preceded him such as the imprisoned "American Taliban," John Walker Lindh

and convicted terrorist Jose Padilla.

At first after his capture, Vinas appeared scared and dejected. When he was brought back to the United States, an official said, he "started to turn the corner" and trust them, little by little.

One of the first leads he gave investigators was admitting to his own role in helping al-Qaida plan an attack on U.S. soil.

"I consulted with a senior al-Qaida leader and provided detailed information about the operation of the Long Island Rail Road system which I knew because I had ridden the railroad on many occasions," Vinas later told a judge in a secret guilty plea to terrorism charges. Vinas said the terrorists wanted to launch a bomb attack on the train system.

It was Vinas' information about those conversations, officials said, that led authorities to issue a security warning last year around the Thanksgiving holidays about a possible plot against New York City-area transit systems.

Once Vinas was placed in U.S. custody, FBI agents spent a period of months conducting



This March 20, 2001 file photo, shows President George W. Bush, right, and George J. Tenet, left, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, stop to pose standing the CIA seal in the main entrance of agency headquarters in Langley, Va.

Associated Press

approximately 100 interviews with the man, a Muslim convert who spoke Arabic, Dari and Urdu.

Vinas, whose father hails from Peru and his mother from Argentina, told officials he left for Pakistan in September 2007, arriving in Lahore. He made his way to Peshawar. Intelligence experts say that his terror bosses first sent him on a mission to fire missiles at a U.S. base in Afghanistan, most likely a way for them to test his loyalty. The first attack

was not launched because of radio problems and the second failed to hit the base, according to Vinas.

After the botched mission, he agreed to become a suicide bomber and returned to Peshawar for more religious training.

In March 2008, Vinas later told his FBI interrogators, he turned up in Waziristan, a mountainous border region in Pakistan where Osama bin Laden and other terror leaders are suspected of hiding out.



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Democrats: We will move forward on health overhaul



In this photo provided by ABC News, Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D., shakes hands with Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C., after they appear for an interview with George Stephanopoulos on ABC's This Week, in Washington, Sunday, July 26, 2009.
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Democrats alone cannot pass President Barack Obama's ambitious overhaul of how Americans receive health care, a top lawmaker acknowledged on Sunday. Republicans said they will continue their opposition to a plan they say is simply a government takeover of the health care system. Both sides said they want to improve the system and provide care for almost 50 million Americans who lack health insurance coverage, but they remain deeply divided over how to reach that goal. Republicans said

the longer the delay, the more the public understands the stakes of a policy that has vexed lawmakers for decades. "Republicans want to protect the right of Americans to make their own health care decisions, to pick their own doctors and their own plans," said Sen. Jim DeMint of South Carolina. "We could have a plan in a few weeks if the goal is not a government takeover. We've never seen the government operate a plan of any kind effectively and at the budgets we talked about." Democrats countered that

their plans — and there are many variations under consideration by Congress, as committees in both the House and Senate work on versions — would expand coverage without adding to the deficit. Even so, they are likely to leave for an August recess without a vote. White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said they are "80 percent" in agreement on what a final version will include and are making progress. In separate interviews, Obama adviser David Axelrod used the same line, underscoring the White House's desire to paint the missed deadline as a hiccup rather than a hurdle. "Now, we're at the final 20 percent and we're trying to work through those details," Axelrod said during one appearance. During another, he added: "We're less interested in hard deadlines than in moving the process forward. The deadlines have had a disciplining effect. ... What we don't want is for the process to bog down here. We want to keep moving forward, and I believe we will. That final piece, however, will require Republican backing — something Kentucky Sen. Mitch McConnell said was unlikely. The Senate minority

leader said congressional Democrats are having difficulty selling a health care bill to their own more conservative members. "The only thing bipartisan about the measure so far is the opposition to it," said McConnell. It's a reality a key Democratic senator acknowledged. Even though the Democrats enjoy a majority in the Senate, some are skittish about the financial or political costs of the proposals. "Look, there are not the votes for Democrats to do this just on our side of the aisle," said Sen. Kent Conrad of North Dakota, the chairman of the powerful budget committee. Similar sentiments were expressed by Rep. Jim Cooper, a Tennessee Democrat and a member of the caucus of fiscally conservative Democrats known as "Blue Dogs." Cooper said he doubts the Democratic-controlled House could pass a proposal. "We have a long way to go," he said. "David Axelrod is right; we have agreement on 70 or 80 percent of the legislation, but it is important we get the other details right, too." House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, meanwhile, insisted she has the votes in her chamber to move forward with the plan

despite the same concerns among fiscally conservative fellow Democrats. "When I take this bill to the floor, it will win. We will move forward, it will happen," Pelosi said. "He's waded right into it. And I am somewhat encouraged by what I see happening in the Congress. You know, I've been there. I know how hard this is," said Clinton, a one-time Obama rival. "I think that the time has come. I think this president is committed to it. I think the leadership in Congress understands we have to do something. And I, I think we'll get it done." The United States is the only developed nation that does not have a comprehensive national health care plan for all its citizens, and Obama campaigned on a promise to offer affordable health care to all Americans. However, the recession and a deepening budget deficit have made it difficult to win support for costly new programs. About 50 million of America's 300 million people are without health insurance. The government provides coverage for the poor, elderly, military veterans and many children, but most Americans rely on private insurance, usually received through their employers. However, not all employers provide insurance and not everyone can afford to buy it. With unemployment rising, many Americans are losing their health insurance when they lose their jobs. DeMint and Conrad spoke on ABC television's "This Week." Gibbs appeared on "Fox News Sunday." Axelrod appeared on CBS' "Face the Nation" and CNN's "State of the Union." Cooper appeared on "Face the Nation." McConnell and Pelosi also were interviewed for "State of the Union." Clinton appeared on NBC's "Meet the Press."

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Four cousins, mom, three others

die in NewYork wrong-way crash

JIM FITZGERALD
Associated Press Writer
BRIARCLIFF MANOR,
New York (AP) — A family's minivan going in the wrong direction crashed into two cars on a suburban parkway on Sunday, killing eight people, including four young

cousins and the mother of one of them. StatepoliceInvestigatorJoseph Becerra said the minivan was traveling southbound in the northbound lanes of the Taconic State Parkway just north of New York City, when it struck an SUV and then

careened into a third vehicle. The minivan rolled down an embankment, where it burst into flames. The woman driving the minivan and four of the five children inside it were killed, Becerra said. They were part of a family from Floral Park

Abortion killing

Continued from page

Tiller, 67, had been the target of relentless protests for most of the 36 years that he performed abortions at his Wichita clinic, where he practiced as one of the nation's few providers of late-term abortions. He was shot in both arms by an anti-abortion activist in 1993, and his family said the doctor had been repeatedly threatened over the years.

Prosecutors have largely refused to discuss the case and Roeder's comments to the press. Defense attorneys have not returned calls to The Associated Press seeking comment, and Roeder has declined to say what plea he plans to enter.

Roeder has had plenty else to say, however. With their client itching to talk — and with prosecutors apparently having several witnesses to the shooting — defense attorneys face a difficult case.

Among Roeder's potential defenses is a diminished mental competency. His brother, David, has said Roeder suffered from mental illness at various times in his life. Roeder denied that is mentally ill now, but has acknowledged that he was diagnosed with schizophrenia in his late teens. He blames that on drug use at the time and said he has been clean for more than 20 years.

"Drugs are not a problem. My mental illness came from the use of drugs," Roeder told The Associated Press. "When I quit, I haven't had any problems."

But legal observers say Roeder's defense attorneys can raise the question regardless. "Sometimes the person is

the last to know, you know what I mean? If you are truly incompetent that is one of the things you might not understand," said retired Shawnee County District Judge Terry Bullock. "So if there is any question about that, the lawyer should raise that issue and they will have him examined and a decision will be made about that before trial."

Roeder, in rambling phone and jailhouse interviews with the AP since his arrest, has said a "war has been declared upon the unborn," who must be defended.

Asked whether he hoped Tiller's death would inspire others to shoot abortion providers, Roeder replied that everyone has to make their own decisions. But he said he would be pleased if others took action to stop abortion by any means necessary.

"Violence is not wrong in all situations, so if it takes that — then if it is done righteously — then, if it's done, it is OK," Roeder said.

That argument is not likely to get much, if any, traction in the courtroom.

"Justifiable homicide typically means self-defense — you are defending yourself, your home, your wife or somebody like that," Bullock said. "It is not that you have a good motive."

In several interviews with The AP, Roeder has stopped just short of confessing to Tiller's shooting. While talking at length about the notion of justifiable homicide against abortion providers, he has refused to discuss any facts of the case.

Asked if he thinks Tiller's shooting was justified, Roeder replied, "Well, yeah.

The thing is, how could it not be? Again, you know, he was in the business, and had been for many years, of taking the lives of unborn children. So if the lives of born children are worthy of protection, why would not the lives of unborn children be worthy of protection? That is really what it comes down to."

If convicted of first-degree murder, Roeder faces life in prison with the possibility of parole after 25 years.

A week after his arrest, Roeder told The AP that "I know there are many other similar events planned around the country as long as abortion remains legal."



New York State troopers and Hawthorne, N.Y. firefighters work at the scene of a fatal accident, Sunday, July 26, 2009 on the Taconic State Parkway in Hawthorne, N.Y. A family's minivan going in the wrong direction crashed into two cars on a suburban parkway on Sunday, killing eight people, including four young children who were related to each other.

Associated Press

and West Babylon, on Long Island. The children who died were girls ages 2, 5, 7 and 9. The fifth child, a boy, age 5, was hospitalized with severe head injuries.

The minivan's driver was the mother of the surviving child, and the other children were her nieces and her daughter, Becerra said.

Three men from Yonkers in the SUV were killed, Becerra said. Two people in the third vehicle were hospitalized.

It was the second wrong-way crash on the parkway on Sunday, and police said they didn't know why either driver was going in the wrong direction or where the drivers entered the parkway. Five people were injured in an early morning collision between two vehicles, one of which was headed northbound in the southbound lanes. That accident occurred about 20 miles (32 kilometers) north of the later incident.



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In this photo taken on April 19, 2009, Pakistan's pro-Taliban cleric Sufi Muhammad, leaves after addressing to his supporters in Mingora capital of Pakistan's troubled valley of Swat. A Pakistani minister said on Sunday, July 26, 2009 authorities have arrested Muhammad, who brokered a now-failed peace deal between the government and militants in the Swat Valley.
Associated Press

Pakistan arrests influential pro-Taliban cleric

ELENA BECATOROS

Associated Press Writer

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Police arrested an influential pro-Taliban cleric who had brokered a failed peace deal in northern Pakistan's troubled Swat Valley, an indication the government will no longer negotiate with militants.

Authorities accused Sufi Muhammad, father-in-law of Swat's notorious Taliban leader Maulana Fazlullah, of encouraging violence and terrorism.

The peace deal in February imposed Sharia, or Islamic law, in the valley in exchange for an end to two years of fighting. But it was widely seen as handing over control of the valley, once a popular tourist destination, to the Taliban.

The deal collapsed in April when the Taliban advanced south out of Swat, triggering a military offensive and a spree of retaliatory attacks by militants in the northwest and beyond. Some 2 million people fled the region, and although hundreds of thousands have returned in the past two weeks as the military operation winds down, sporadic fighting continues.

"At this critical juncture, we cannot allow, we cannot let a person walk free, a person who has supported terrorists," Mian Iftikhar Hussein, information minister for the North West Frontier Province, said Sunday.

"Instead of keeping his promises by taking steps for the sake of peace and speaking out against terrorism, he did not utter a single word against terrorists," Iftikhar said in a news conference in Peshawar.

Muhammad leads a pro-Taliban group known as the Tehrik Nifaz-e-Shariat Mohammadi, or the Movement for the Enforcement of Islamic Law. He was jailed in 2002 but was freed last year after renouncing violence.

But Muhammad himself was not in control of armed militants in Swat, and the Taliban's ability to bounce back from the recent offensive against them will depend more on their leaders, including the cleric's son-in-law. Despite occasional rumors to the contrary, none has

been captured or is known to have been killed. The Taliban were already on the run from the army and so the arrest was unlikely to have any significant impact on the militants themselves, said Mahmood Shah, a former security chief in the tribal region.

"I think they are totally dispirited," he said. "I don't think this arrest will have any effect on them." But Muhammad's arrest is a further sign that the government will no longer negotiate with the Taliban — a position likely to please the U.S., which is looking for signs Pakistan is serious about cracking down on militants.

The Pakistani government has already said as much. In June, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani said that action, not words, is needed.

"The nation wants peace and the elimination of terrorism in the country, so this is not the time for talks," he had said.


Earlier Sunday, police said they had arrested former lawmaker Shah Abdul Aziz and a suspected Taliban militant in connection with the beheading of Polish geologist Piotr Stanczak, who was kidnapped near the Afghan border last September.

Investigator Malik Tariq Awan told The Associated Press that the two were taken into custody a month ago. He said Aziz, a member of a pro-Taliban religious party elected to parliament's lower house in 2002, is believed to have plotted the abduction.

Stanczak's beheading — shown in a video that surfaced in February — was the first of a westerner in Pakistan since the 2002 killing of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl.

The other man detained was identified only as suspected militant Ataullah.


In Islamabad, police spokesman Naim Khan said information gleaned from Ataullah allowed police to raid a hide-out in the capital's outskirts, arresting three suspects and seizing weapons and ammunition. Another police official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to reveal details of the case, said the men had been planning attacks on government buildings.




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| PG-13 | I LOVE YOU BETH COOPER | daily: 4:40 matinee: 12:25 | 6:50 2:35 | late show: |
| R | THE HANGOVER | daily: 5:30 matinee: 1:15 | 7:40 3:25 | 9:50 late show: 12:00 |
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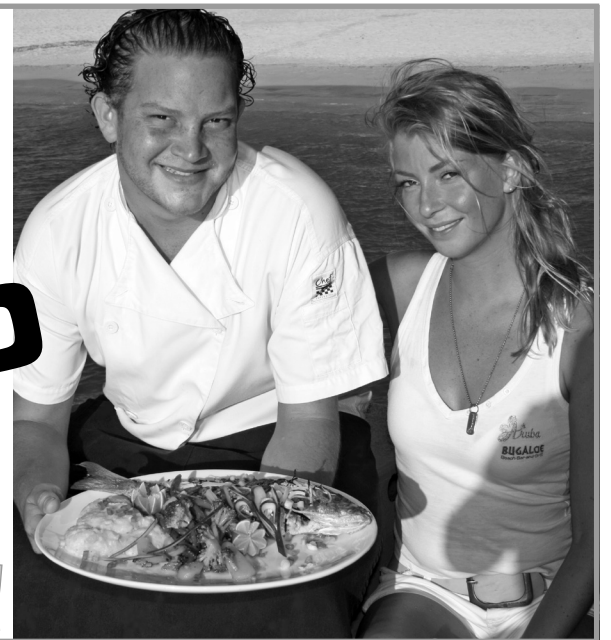

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Opposition in Iraqi Kurd elections claims gains

YAHYA BARZANJI

Associated Press Writer

SULAIMANIYAH, Iraq

(AP) — An opposition party on Sunday claimed there had been violations in the presidential and parliamentary elections in Iraq's self-ruled Kurdish region but said it still expected a strong showing.

The opposition front called "Change" was at the heart of a push for reform in a bid to shake up the political establishment in Iraq's three Kurdish-ruled provinces that have been dominated by two parties for decades.

The semiautonomous Kurdish region has largely escaped the violence that has plagued the rest of the country since the 2003 U.S. invasion.

Underscoring the persistent dangers facing Iraqis elsewhere in the country, a suicide bomber struck a funeral in a former insurgent stronghold west of Baghdad, killing as many as five people, including two policemen, according to authorities.

The attacker detonated his explosives belt at about 9:30 p.m. Sunday while mourners were gathered in a tent for the funeral of a police officer killed in a roadside bombing the night before in the Anbar province town of Khladiyah.

Two police officers and three civilians were killed in the suicide bombing, according to a policeman, speaking on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to release the information.

Provincial police commander Maj. Gen. Tariq Youssef confirmed two police officers were killed and six were wounded but said he couldn't immediately provide information about civilian casualties.

Iraq's Independent High Electoral Commission said 78 percent of 2.5 million eligible voters cast ballots during Saturday's elections in the Kurdish region. The high turnout apparently was fueled by excitement over the rare show of opposition to the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and the Kurdistan Democratic Party, which have been accused of corruption, intimidation and failing to provide services.

Shahou Saeed, a spokesman for the Change list, said it had registered complaints with the electoral commission ranging from what it said was an unwarranted extension of polling hours to balloting by unregistered voters.

The Shams Network, an independent Kurdish electoral observer panel, raised concerns that the ink used to mark the thumbs of voters who had cast ballots could be easily washed off, possibly allowing someone to vote more than once.

"The electoral commission did not allow observers to use their mobile phones. Therefore observers could not send reports about violations," said Hogar Chatto, a spokesman for

Shams.

The panel overseeing the vote said the balloting was largely conducted without irregularities but promised to investigate official complaints.

Preliminary results were to be announced Monday, according to a statement by the Iraqi government's media office.

Early projections based on counts by the parties suggested the PUK and the KDP would retain their overall majority in parliament with President Massoud Barzani at the helm while the Change list scored big in the city of Sulaimaniyah, a stronghold of the PUK led by Iraqi President Jalal Talabani.

Change is led by Noshewan Mustafa, a former PUK insider who broke with the party after he was unable to push through reforms.

Mustafa is part of a wave of independent Iraqi politicians trying to break the hold of religious parties and other traditional power brokers by tapping into frustration felt by many Iraqis over perceived failures of the current administrations.

The trend was evident in the Jan. 31 provincial elections held in the rest of the country which saw many Iraq's religious parties lose seats.

"We will form a real opposition front in the next parliament of Kurdistan and we will change the map of the new parliament. We are very



Kurdish regional President Massoud Barzani shows his ink-stained finger after casting his vote in the regional elections in Irbil, Iraq, 217 miles north of Baghdad, Saturday, July 25, 2009. Associated Press

optimistic about the results," Saeed said.

Meanwhile, in Baghdad, five people were killed in a brazen daylight attack at a popular money exchange office.

The gunmen broke into the al-Nibal money changer in Baghdad's commercial Karrada district shortly before noon, killing three employees and two customers, said two Iraqi police officials. Another 12, including eight employees were wounded.

Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release the information to the media.

In April, gunmen using silencer-fitted weapons killed at least seven people during a daylight heist of jewelry stores in Baghdad.

In the same month, gunmen used similar tactics during the robbery of an exchange office in the southern city of Basra.

The U.S. military also announced that an Iraqi civilian was killed and three others were wounded when their car was hit by an American armored vehicle north of Baghdad early Sunday morning.

The massive wheeled Stryker vehicle struck the car after it came to an abrupt stop. Two U.S. soldiers also were injured in the accident.

The American convoy was returning to a U.S. base outside the city after conducting a joint patrol with Iraqi forces, the statement said.

Sarkozy hospitalized

Continued from front page

Sarkozy, an avid jogger and cyclist, was forced to interrupt his run and "lie down with the help of an aide," the statement said. A presidential doctor who is with Sarkozy at all times sounded the alert and administered initial treatment. Doctors at the Val de Grace military hospital conducted neurological, blood and cardiological tests as well as an EEG, an electroencephalogram. Sarkozy, ever mindful of his image, received close advisers Sunday to keep up on the news and was resting, the statement said. A new health bulletin was expected Monday morning. "He's doing well. He's hungry. He's grousing, so everything's OK," Patrick Balkany, a close friend and deputy mayor of the Paris suburb of Levallois-Perret told RTL radio. Balkany said Sarkozy was on a diet and doing too much. "I hope,

moreover, for him, that this is a healthy warning," Balkany added. Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi and former French President Jacques Chirac were among those who sent Sarkozy wishes for a speedy recovery. French Health Ministry Roselyne Bachelot, speaking live on French 2 television, said Sarkozy had suffered a "small" vasovagal episode. A vagal episode can be caused by strenuous exercise when it is very hot. It can lead to a temporary loss of consciousness but usually is not serious. It is named for the vagus nerve which slows down the heartbeat and reduces arterial tension. The Le Parisien newspaper on its Web site quoted Claude Gueant, the secretary-general of the Elysee Palace, as saying that Sarkozy's illness was over quickly. "The president is completely conscious. His illness did not last a long time," Gueant said in the newspaper interview.

Gueant, who was not with the French leader at the time, indicated that Sarkozy had been inanimate but he "had regained consciousness." Gueant said Sarkozy had been jogging with his bodyguards on the grounds of the Lanterne pavilion, a hunting lodge at the vast Chateau of Versailles used by French presidents. Temperatures reached 28 degrees Celsius (84 degrees Fahrenheit) at Versailles on Sunday afternoon. Earlier, the Elysee Palace had issued a brief statement saying that Sarkozy "felt faint" Sunday while exercising. Sarkozy, 54, was elected in 2007. He last underwent a medical examination July 3, when his cardiovascular and blood tests were normal, the Elysee's medical service said. His first medical bulletin issued shortly after his 2007 election said Sarkozy's health was "good" and compatible with his presidential duties. Since his election, Sarkozy has maintained a frenetic



Security officers stand behind barriers outside the val-de-Grace military hospital in Paris Sunday July 26 2009 where France's president Nicolas Sarkozy has been taken after falling ill while exercising. French President Nicolas Sarkozy collapsed while jogging Sunday on the lush grounds of the Chateau of Versailles and will stay at a hospital overnight even though tests so far have found nothing wrong, his office said.

Associated Press

pace, traveling the world and performing political activities, as well as divorcing his second wife and marrying his third, the former fashion model and singer, Carla Bruni. During his presidential campaign, Sarkozy pushed for greater transparency on

presidential health bulletins, but his short hospital stay for a throat problem in 2007 was revealed only three months later. Previous French presidents regularly concealed their health problems from the public.




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N. Korea says it's open to new dialogue on nukes

JAE-SOON CHANG

Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— North Korea said Monday that it is open to new dialogue to defuse tensions over its nuclear weapons program in what appeared to be a call for direct talks with the United States.

The statement from Pyongyang's Foreign Ministry marks a rare expression of willingness to talk by a regime that has rapidly escalated tensions with a flurry of provocations in recent months, including a nuclear test and a series of missile launches.

It also suggests that isolated North Korea thinks that it has raised its stakes enough, and it's time to negotiate.

On Monday, the North made clear again that it won't return to six-nation nuclear talks involving China, Japan, the two Koreas, Russia and the U.S., saying the forum seeks only to "disarm and incapacitate" the nation.

But it added, "There is a specific and reserved form of dialogue that can address the current situation."

The statement did not elaborate on the new form of dialogue. But Pyongyang has long been known to be seeking direct negotiations with Washington.

On Friday, North Korea's ambassador to the United Nations, Sin Son Ho, also indicated the regime's interest in bilateral negotiations,

saying the country is "not against a dialogue," according to Japan's Kyodo News agency.

North Korea's main Rodong Sinmun newspaper also said Sunday that the country's envoy told an Asian security conference in Thailand last week that the nuclear standoff was a matter only between Pyongyang and Washington. The United States says it is willing to hold direct talks with the North within the six-nation process if it returns to the negotiating table and takes irreversible steps for denuclearization.

On Sunday, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said on NBC television's



South Korean protesters hold up their cards during a rally opposing the U.S. policy against North Korea near the U.S. Embassy in Seoul Sunday, July 26, 2009. About 100 demonstrators demanded that the U.S. sign a peace agreement with North Korea to replace the 1953 cease-fire that halted the Korean War, claiming it would be a way to resolve its nuclear standoff with the United States.

Associated Press

"Meet the Press" that the six-party talk framework, which had everybody included, is the appropriate way to engage with North Korea." North Korea quit the six-nation talks in April in anger over a U.N. rebuke of its long-range rocket launch. It

has since further ratcheted up tensions with its second nuclear test on May 25 and a series of banned ballistic missiles earlier this month. The U.N. Security Council has adopted a tough sanctions resolution to punish Pyongyang.

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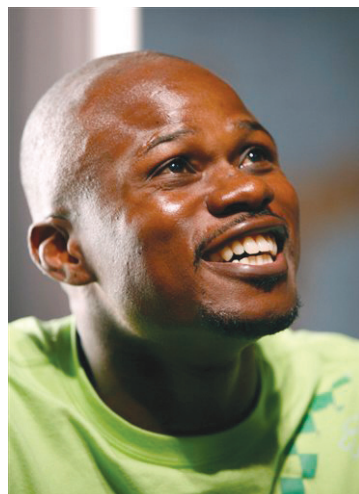
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Aruba TODAY



In this July 26, 2007 file photo, boxer Vernon Forrest smiles as he answers questions during a news conference in Tacoma, Wash. Police say Forrest has been shot and killed in an apparent robbery. Atlanta Police Sgt. Lisa Keyes said in an e-mail Sunday, July 26, 2009 that Forrest may have been robbed and was shot "multiple times in the back" Saturday night in Atlanta.

Associated Press

Ex-boxing champion Forrest killed

CHARLES ODUM

AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Vernon Forrest, a former three-time champion who gained stardom when he became the first boxer to defeat "Sugar" Shane Mosley, was shot and killed during an apparent robbery in Atlanta, police said Sunday.

Atlanta Police Sgt. Lisa Keyes said in an e-mail Sunday that Forrest, 38, was shot "multiple times in the back" Saturday night. Keyes said there are no suspects.

"Vernon was one of the few decent people in boxing," promoter Gary Shaw said Sunday. "I mean really decent. He cared about mentally challenged adults. He cared about kids. I just can't believe it."



From left, Michael Phelps, Nathan Adrian, Ryan Lochte and Matt Grevers of the United States show their gold medals of the Men's 4x100M relay, at the FINA Swimming World Championships in Rome, Sunday, July 26, 2009.

Associated Press

Phelps off to winning start at FINA world championships

ROME (AP) — Michael Phelps and the Americans got the best of France again in the relay. And just like Beijing, the world's greatest swimmer owed a big hand to his teammates Sunday.

Phelps led off the 400-meter freestyle relay, his first event of the world swimming championships, but he was only third when he turned it over to Ryan Lochte.

Lochte hung tough against France's hulking Alain Bernard while surprising Russia also surged into contention. Matt Grevers did his part on the third leg, and Nathan Adrian pulled it out for the U.S. with a blistering down and back, overtaking the Russians and holding off the heavily favored French to win in 3 minutes, 9.21 seconds.

Phelps pumped his fists on the pool deck, then leaned over to congratulate Adrian — whose closing act was reminiscent of Jason Lezak's amazing final leg at the Olympics, when he somehow chased down Bernard to keep Phelps on course to win a record eight golds.

This time, France didn't even get the silver. The Russians touched second in 3:09.52, while the French were relegated to the bronze at 3:09.89.

Phelps had the slowest split among the

Americans, 47.78. Lochte sped through the water in 47.03, Grevers put up a time of 47.61 and Adrian — who won the 100 free at the U.S. national championships this month — closed it out with the best time of anyone in the pool, 46.69.

Amazingly on the warm summer evening at the Foro Italico, the Americans managed to keep their relay title without setting a world record. A half-dozen fell on the first night of swimming — two of them in semifinal heats, two more in one race, a staggering figure that shows just about every mark is in danger over this eight-day meet.

Looks like those high-tech bodysuits are going to have quite a last hurrah. The sport's governing body banned the suits beginning in 2010, believing they have gone over the line by increasing buoyancy and improving stamina, allowing swimmers to literally glide along the top of the water.

Hard to argue with that belief as one record after another fell, including an iconic mark in the men's 400 freestyle held for seven years by Australian great Ian Thorpe. Germany's Paul Biedermann shot down the "Thorpedo."

Continued page 13



Mexico's Giovanni Dos Santos, front left, Garardo Torrado, front center, and Efrain Juarez, front right, and their teammates celebrate with the trophy after defeating the United States 5-0 in the CONCACAF Gold Cup soccer final, Sunday, July 26, 2009, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Associated Press

Mexico wins Gold Cup, routs US 5-0

BARRY WILNER

AP Sports Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (AP) — Mexico snapped a decade victory drought against the Americans in the United States on Sunday with a 5-0 rout for its fifth CONCACAF regional championship.

Captain Gerardo Torrado scored on a penalty in the 56th minute, then the inexperienced U.S. squad came unglued.

As an overwhelmingly pro-Mexico sellout crowd of 79,156 rocked Giants Stadium, Giovanni Dos Santos and Carlos Vela scored five minutes apart despite several brilliant saves by Troy Perkins. Indeed, it seemed the goalkeeper was the only American on the field during the 11-minute blitz in which Mexico's attackers could have sprinted all the way back to Azteca Stadium without being touched.

The fiesta was on.

Johnson grabs Indy win after late Montoya penalty

JENNA FRYER
AP Auto Racing Writer
INDIANAPOLIS (AP)

— Jimmie Johnson grabbed an improbable third victory at Indianapolis Motor Speedway when a speeding penalty to Juan Pablo Montoya blew Sunday's race wide open.

Montoya led 116 laps and had a 5-second lead when he headed to pit road for a routine stop with 35 laps remaining. NASCAR flagged him for speeding on his way in, and the penalty knocked him out of contention.

"I swear on my children and my wife that I was not speeding!" he shouted over his radio. "There is no way! Thank you NASCAR for screwing my day."

Crew chief Brian Pattie begged his driver to calm down and focus on salvaging a solid points day, to no avail.

"Don't tell me to relax, dude!" Montoya yelled. "We had this in the bag."

Indeed he did, but the 2000 winner of the Indianapolis 500 was relegated to an 11th-place finish. Montoya, who had moved as high as sixth in the Sprint Cup standings as he ran out front, instead lost a spot and is now 10th in the race for the Chase for the championship.

The performance was reminiscent of Montoya's win in the Indy 500, when he led 167 of 200 laps in his first race at the storied track. His team celebrated his return Sunday with a retro paint scheme that duplicated that winning car, and as he clicked off lap after lap, it was déjà vu for the Colombian driver.

"Actually reminded me of last time I led here to be honest," a calm Montoya said after the race. "I was cruise(ing). I was super fast."

Too fast, actually. NASCAR

said the electronic timing system caught Montoya twice exceeding the limit as he drove down pit road.

"There's nothing to prove wrong," said Robin Pemberton, vice president of competition. "It's about as simple math as you can use."

The penalty opened up the race for anyone else to claim.

Mark Martin restarted as the leader with 24 laps to go and Hendrick Motorsports teammate Jimmie Johnson lined up on his outside. Johnson sailed to the front and pulled away, only to have to hold off Martin over a nerve-racking final five laps.

Johnson, winner of three of the last four races at The Brickyard, became the first driver to win in consecutive years in 16 NASCAR races at Indy. It was the third win this season for the three-time defending NASCAR champion.

Martin, who at 50 became the oldest polesitter in Indy's 100 years, finished second and moved up two spots in the standings to ninth.

"I would have liked to win it," Martin said. "Just got beat by Superman."

Current points leader Tony Stewart, a two-time Brickyard winner, was third and could commiserate with Montoya's heartbreak.

"He never really was challenged all day," Stewart said. "He did a great job. I know what he's feeling like — he's got to be sick inside. He had the car, he had the talent to do it, he just made a mistake and it cost him."

Greg Biffle was third and followed by Brian Vickers and Kevin Harvick, who grabbed his best finish in 15 races.

Kasey Kahne was seventh and followed by David Reutimann, four-time Brickyard winner Jeff Gordon and Matt Kenseth.

A cut tire caused Kyle Busch to finish 38th and drop out



Jimmie Johnson does a burnout on the main straight after winning the NASCAR Allstate 400 at the Brickyard auto race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indianapolis, Sunday, July 26, 2009.


Associated Press

of contention for the Chase. The bad day cost him four spots in the standings, and he is 14th with six races left to set the 12-driver Chase field. "I think it's pretty self-explanatory that we're trying to fight for a spot in the Chase," said Busch, a three-time winner this season.

The tire problems that plagued last year's race were never a factor, as Goodyear made good on its promise to find the right compound

for one of the biggest races of the season. Goodyear's product last year couldn't last longer than 10-to-12 laps, and the tiremaker spent 11 months diligently correcting the problem.





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Tour de France winner Alberto Contador of Spain, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, center, second-placed Andy Schleck of Luxembourg, wearing the best young rider's white jersey, left, and third-placed American seven-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong react on the podium after the 21st stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 101.9 miles with start in Montereau-Fault-Yonne and finish in Paris, France, Sunday July 26, 2009. The Arc de Triomphe monument is seen behind. Associated Press

Alberto Contador wins Tour de France again

JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press Writer

PARIS (AP) — Alberto Contador won the Tour de France for a second time Sunday, and Lance Armstrong capped his return to the race with an impressive third-place finish.

Mark Cavendish of Britain collected his sixth stage win of this year's Tour in a sprint after the 101.9-mile course ride from Montereau-Fault-Yonne to the Champs-Elysees.

Over nearly 3,500 kilometers and 21 stages of racing over three weeks, Contador repelled many challenges in the mountains, excelled in the two time-trials — winning a pivotal race against the clock in the 18th stage — and won the first Alpine stage.

Andy Schleck of Luxembourg,

Contador's biggest rival among title contenders in the mountains, was second overall. Contador, the 2007 champion, also had to battle a rearguard action within his Astana team, where the comeback of Armstrong to the Tour after 3½ years of retirement raised questions about who would be the team leader.

"It has been an especially difficult Tour for me, but I savor it and it is more special because of it," Contador said after the prize ceremony.

The subtext to the race was the open tension between Armstrong and Contador within Astana — a battle of egos between a proven cycling giant and another making the strong case that he's one, too.

The body language on the winner's podium said it all. As he climbed onto the victor's stage, Armstrong gave a perfunctory handshake to Contador, then heartily shook Schleck's hand. The quintessential American competitor cast a long sideways glance at the victor's bowl as Contador took it. Armstrong only gave a quick glance at his own crystal trophy.

The American had his whole clan on hand: his son Luke, twin girls Grace and Isabelle — all dressed in yellow — and their mom, Kristin; and his girlfriend Anna Hansen, with their baby Max in a sling.

Luke got a high-five and a word of congratulations "on the third place of your dad," from Astana manager Johan Bruyneel outside the team bus.

"Thanks," the twins said.

Massive crowds poured out onto Paris' most famous avenue for the finish: Norwegians in Viking helmets, flag-waving Britons and an American in a stars-and-stripes top hat among them.

By the end of the race, Armstrong was talking less of squabbling within Astana and more about Contador's greatness as a rider

— and admitted his form wasn't the best.

"I'm realistic. I did everything I could," Armstrong said before the final stage. "For me, and even more for my kids, it's probably a healthy thing for them to see, because they saw their dad that never lost, and the kids in their class (say) 'your dad never loses,' so it's good for them to see dad get third and still be cool with that and still be happy."

Asked on French TV what the hardest moment in this race, Contador replied: "It was in the (team) hotel," without elaborating.

Contador and Armstrong reportedly had differences early in the race, as tensions grew over who was the No. 1 Astana rider.

"We are totally incompatible. In the end, Armstrong will go his way and I'll go mine," Contador said.

Some old habits died hard for the Texan.


On the ride into Paris, Armstrong — reviving a habit from his heyday — sipped Champagne in the saddle, only this time it was to celebrate Contador's win and their collective win as a team.


Armstrong and Contador both took a few sips and posed with glass in one hand, handlebar in the other, but then tipped away the rest of the bubbly half-drunk and threw away the glasses.

The Spaniard did enjoy this victory more than in 2007. Four days from the finish that year, then race leader Michael Rasmussen of Denmark was sent home for lying about his whereabouts during pre-Tour doping controls.

"In the key stages of this Tour, I found myself feeling more at ease than I did in 2007. But in situations outside of racing, I didn't feel so comfortable," Contador told Spanish broadcaster TVE.

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Ariana Kukors of the United States reacts after setting a World Record in a Women's 200m Individual Medley semifinal, at the FINA Swimming World Championships in Rome, Sunday, July 26, 2009. Kukors clocked 2.07.03.
Associated Press

Fina

Continued from front page

An even older mark by Inge de Bruijn, which had stood the test of time since the 2000 Sydney Olympics, also went down. Sweden's Sarah Sjostrom got that one in the semifinals of the 100 butterfly.

The Italian fans had plenty to cheer about when Federico Pellegrini became the first woman to break the four-minute barrier in the 400 free. She patted her heart and waved to the near-sellout crowd as she walked off the deck.

Ariana Kukors, who didn't even qualify for the 200 individual medley at the U.S. trials but got in when a teammate scratched, now holds the fastest time ever in that event. She, too, did it in a semifinal race.

The record book was so worthless that two marks fell in a single race. Germany's Britta Steffen was credited with a world record in the 100 free for her opening leg of the 400 free relay, but the Netherlands came back to win the race — with a record-breaking time, of course. In fact, the top three teams, including runner-up Germany and third-place Australia, all broke the old record.

Forty-two-year-old Dara

Torres swam the relay for the Americans, but she was already more than 2 seconds behind by the time she dived in the water on the second leg. The U.S. wound up a distant fourth.

By the end of the night, there was a familiar sight: Phelps climbing to the top of the stand, leaning over and having a gold medal draped around his neck.

He's endured quite a journey since his great haul of China — hosting "Saturday Night Live," appearing on countless television shows, putting out another book, and raising the profile of a sport that had been a once-every-four-year phenomenon.

That was all part of his plan. What he didn't count on was having his picture snapped as he inhaled from a marijuana pipe, and having that photo show up in a British tabloid. He received a three-month suspension from USA Swimming and didn't get back into competition until May. But he's recaptured the motivation to took him to unprecedented heights, setting another world record at the U.S. nationals this month. And he's off to a winning start at Rome, where he'll be competing in six events.

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Zelaya acampará en frontera de Honduras

LAS MANOS, Nicaragua (AP)

- Al caer la noche aún no se había instalado el campamento que el derrocado presidente Manuel Zelaya anunció sería puesto para acoger a sus seguidores la frontera nicaragüense.

Sus seguidores buscaron refugio de las lluvias bajo árboles y comedores ubicados en el tramo entre los dos puestos de paso fronterizo.

“Vamos a permanecer hoy en la tarde, en la noche, mañana en la mañana... esperando a la gente que viene, esperando a mi familia”, dijo Zelaya mientras arengaba con un megáfono a un grupo de seguidores a unos metros de la línea divisoria binacional.

El jefe del Estado Mayor Conjunto de las fuerzas armadas, general Romeo Vásquez, dijo a CNN haber ofrecido trasladar en avión a Nicaragua a la esposa de Zelaya, Xiomara Castro, para que ella se reuniera con el mandatario depuesto.

Pero la mujer dijo a la estación



local Radio América: “Dios mío. ¿Por qué quieren sacarme de mi país? ¿Por qué quieren hacer con mi familia lo que hicieron con el presidente? Yo quiero estar aquí, ese es mi derecho como hondureña”.

Ella permanece en Arenales, a unos 15 kilómetros de la frontera nicaragüense, con su madre Doris Sarmiento, y sus hijos Hortensia y José Manuel. También con la madre de Zelaya, Hortensia Rosales. Esperan encontrarse pronto con

Zelaya.

El paso en la frontera sigue detenido y cientos de camiones de remolque permanecen detenidos en los costados de la carretera.

Las fuerzas armadas hondureñas, bajo órdenes del gobierno de facto, impiden el avance de hondureños que intentan alcanzar la frontera para encontrar a Zelaya. Las carreteras están infestadas de puestos de control y barricadas. Algunos grupos han vadeado

los puestos de control llegar a su destino.

Dania Gómez Pérez, una maestra hondureña de 26 años, dijo que fueron detenidos en puestos de control el viernes y que ella y otras 40 personas tuvieron que caminar a través de las montañas para llegar a la frontera.

“Estamos dispuestos a arriesgar la vida porque todo el país reclama” el regreso del presidente depuesto.

El viernes, el mandatario depuesto atravesó brevemente el límite internacional y se internó unos pasos a Honduras en un retorno simbólico que desató críticas internacionales. Dijo que no intentará cruzar de nuevo.

“No queremos ir a confrontar directamente los grupos armados con el fin de que nos hagan un masacre. Si yo me acerco, y ellos me quieren capturar, la gente me va a

defender”, añadió.

Zelaya llegó el sábado a la frontera conduciendo una camioneta agrícola blanca y escoltado por furgonetas con policías nicaragüenses y una caravana de vehículos de prensa.

En su fugaz incursión del viernes, Zelaya llamó a sus seguidores a resistirse al gobierno de facto instalado en su lugar desde el 28 de junio, cuando militares lo sacaron de su casa y lo enviaron a Costa Rica. La acción del presidente derrocado fue criticada por el secretario general de la Organización de Estados Americanos y la secretaria de Estado estadounidense Hillary Clinton, quien calificó el cruce como un acto “imprudente”.

La presidencia del consejo de la Unión Europea instó a las partes en conflicto a continuar las negociaciones para restaurar la democracia.

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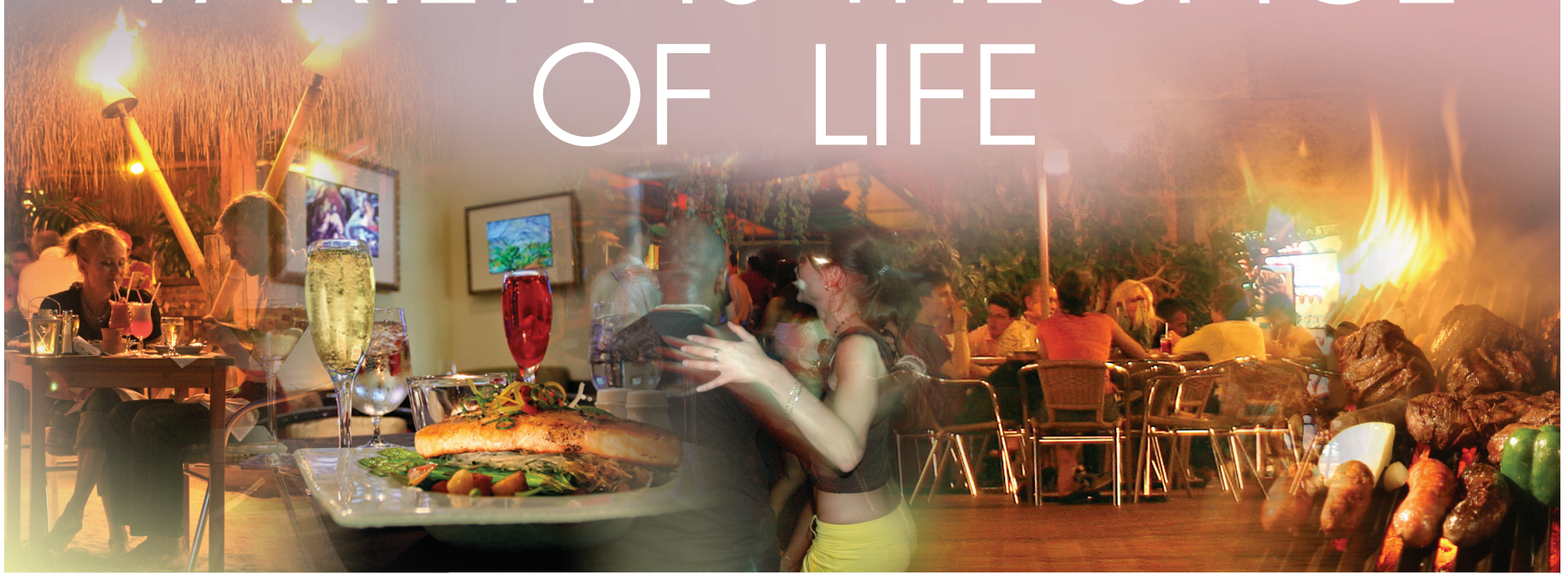
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